(XXXIVth Year.) THE (No. 1696.) 363

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, July 9, 1779.

From the PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE.

NUMBER III.

WE may eaſily conceive what may be the next addreſs of *commiſſioners* from Britain to the *congreſs* of theſe ſtates.—Gentlemen, we have the candour to confeſs that *the fate of war has balanced in your favour*, and it ſeems to be the will of heaven that you ſhould be independent. Whether it is your real happineſs time alone muſt diſcover. Be this as it may, we are now furniſhed with powers to acknowledge, nay to guarantee your independence. You are pleaſed to think yourſelves out of your *apprenticeſhip*, and that with great propriety you may ſet up at your *own hand*. We have often told you, that in our opinion a thing of this kind was rather immature. Nevertheleſs, ſince it muſt be ſo, we are diſpoſed to acquieſce. *We will do as well as we can by you, and ſet you up in the world*; only it will be neceſſary that you forſake all improper company, and place yourſelves in the firm and *natural* alliance of the people of Great-Britain. Or if, from that pride of thought too natural to men who have been ſucceſsful, you ſcorn the alliance of the power of Britain, yet for God's ſake do not add yourſelves to our *unnatural* enemy, who will make uſe of the advantages which ſhe *may draw from* the connection, to effect the ruin of us both.

We take the freedom, gentlemen, to aſſure you that Britain, though *unfortunate*, yet has had your happineſs in view through the whole of this debate. If it was her wiſh that you ſhould continue longer in dependence on her, it was becauſe ſhe thought it for your intereſt. But now that you are arrived to *mature years*, ſhe is willing that you ſhould be *men*, nay ſhe will guarantee your rights as *freemen*, and atone for any ſeverity ſhe may hitherto have exerciſed, by ſhewing you in *future time* the moſt diſintereſted acts of kindneſs.

The devil truſt her, ſays an honeſt man; and for my part, if it is at all proper to introduce the *devil* in a ſerious diſcourſe, I muſt confeſs he cannot be better coupled, than with a power who has acted in many inſtances ſo much like him. When we take a view of her conduct in *paſt caſes*, it muſt in this *caſe* be natural to aſk, is it poſſible that Britain in her preſent *embaſſy of commiſſioners* can be, in the leaſt degree, ſincere? I ſay it is not poſſible.

The paſſion of a nation is the aggregate of the paſſions of individuals, and has the ſame characters with the paſſions of an individual. If it can be found in hiſtory or experience, that an individual who has greatly injured his neighbour can ceaſe to hate the individual who has been the ſubject of the injury, then it may be poſſible that a nation who has been guilty of the like injuſtice can act with the like forgiveneſs. But in hiſtory or experience there are not *frequent* inſtances of individuals who have done an injury becoming friendly to the perſon who has been the ſubject of it; for, though the individual who has been the ſubject of the injury may readily forgive, yet the individual who has done the injury cannot know that the forgiveneſs is ſincere, and therefore cannot but diſtruſt, and diſtruſting fear, and fearing hate, and endeavour to deſtroy.

Britain, to the people of America, has been guilty of the moſt manifeſt injuſtice, in advancing a claim of dominion which muſt have bound them down, *limb and body*, in a more inglorious ſervitude than that in which he is placed who labours chained at the galley oar. She has attacked us *weak* and *defenceleſs*, and through a tedious war, by every *cruelty in arms*, and by every *fraud in ſtipulation*, has fixed upon our minds the moſt durable impreſſion of her baſeneſs. She well knows that this impreſſion has been made, and therefore it may as well be expected that the *flame* of *Ætna* ſhall flow down in a *cool ſtream* of *refreſhing water*, as that Britain can entertain the moſt diſtant cordial thought of friendſhip for America. Having a thouſand times declared that the independence which we ſeemed to affect would not be our happineſs, it is not poſſible that ſhe can labour to eſtabliſh it, in direct contradiction to her own prophecy and judgment. I am perſuaded that no circumſtance in the courſe of things could give her more acute pain, than to be a witneſs of our happineſs in a ſtate independent of her iſland. It would be as reaſonable to ſuppoſe that the *devil*, in his flight by the confines of heaven, could be pleaſed with the innocence and gaiety of thoſe ſmiling plains, as that Britain, in her voyages on theſe coaſts, could be pleaſed with a proſpect of thoſe fields re-flouriſhing, which ſhe had waſted, and thoſe houſes built again, which ſhe had burnt down.

If ſhe herſelf had built them, poſſeſſing in the mean time the inhabitants in a ſtate of ſlavery, and *dependent on her favour*, ſhe might then, and only then, be pleaſed with the circumſtance.

If Britain cannot wiſh well to our independence, will ſhe have it in her power to injure it, ſhould we too credulouſly receive her advances, and put an implicit truſt in her propoſals? Without doubt ſhe will have it in her power greatly to injure us. The moment that commiſſioners appear and expreſs a willingneſs to grant the long debated article of *independence*, it will be thought by every *ſuperficial* mind that the controverſy is wholly at an end. Britain will be conſidered as a *riſing ſun*, whoſe *early beam* will be hailed: for reconciled with theſe ſtates, ſhe will have at leaſt the intereſt of a friend to aſſiſt thoſe, who by court paid ſhall ſeem to deſerve her favour. Now it is a much more eaſy thing to pay court to a *tyrant* power, than to the whole body of a free and virtuous people, amongſt whom nothing but diſtinguiſhed merit can advance to public office. For this reaſon, all who have not a confidence in their own *integrity* and talents will ſeek to raiſe themſelves by that power, who can be better ſerved by artifice and fraud, than by integrity or diſtinguiſhed talents, cramped in their operation by an *ill-natured* principle of virtue.

Britain will more than meet advances of this nature. She will court *individuals*, and even addreſs herſelf to particular *ſtates*, and in the *interim of negociation* endeavour to allure by propoſals of particular advantage. She may ſtipulate with one ſtate to take from them what tobacco ſhe ſhall want, or to give to another the excluſive importation of a certain article of commerce, by this means conſtituting them her factors in the excluſive importation of that article. To another ſhe may grant the excluſive privilege of trade from a certain of her Weſt-India iſlands.

Theſe conditions ſhe may ſtipulate with particular ſtates, in order that ſhe may ſecure their vote to co-operate with her to bring the ſtates in general from their connection with the court of France to a connection with the court of Britain, or perhaps priſtine ſtate of dependence on her.

There is a wide interval between a declaration on the part of Britain to acknowledge our independence, and a declaration of her willingneſs to acknowledge it, on this condition that we relinquiſh our alliance with the court of France. This interval is oozy and unſtable. It boils up with quick-ſands. Let us not tread upon it to our deſtruction.

It ought to be our firſt queſtion to the commiſſioners—Gentlemen, are you furniſhed with powers to ratify your conſent to the independence of the ſtates? Yes, upon condition that you relinquiſh your *unnatural alliance* with the court of France. Gentlemen, the expreſſion is an inſult upon our honour, and the idea, if admitted, would be deſtructive of our happineſs. You will excuſe us from any farther converſation relative to that which appears to be the object of your embaſſy. Our independence, clear and diſconnected with conditions, is what we chuſe to hear conceded to us, and until that point, ſingle and alone, is conceded, we can have no place for any intercourſe by writing or by meſſage whatſoever.

I am of opinion, that even when Great-Britain ſhall have ceaſed every act of open and avowed hoſtility againſt us, it will be wiſe, *for ſome length of time*, to keep her at a diſtance. We may reſt aſſured that ſhe will not eaſily give up the hope of adding theſe ſtates to her dominion. Circumſtances that do not yet appear may put an object of this nature greatly in her power. When emigrants from her kingdom, riſing in the *pride* and *prejudice* of Engliſhmen, like monſters from the ocean, half man half ſhark, ſhall have ſpread themſelves upon our ſoil, and be added to the number who already have the *beſtial mark* upon them, ſhe may hope to form an intereſt, by which the balance of our councils may preponderate in her behalf. When ſhe comes to extend her commerce, and to plant her factors on every river of America, ſhe may hope to accompliſh that by *artifice*, which a *ten years war*, and a *thouſand ſhips, had not been able to effect* *.

For theſe reaſons, I would not wiſh to ſee this country renewing, with too much avidity, her intercourſe and correſpondence with Great-Britain. When *theſe men are dead, who have ſought our lives*, then, and then only, will it be ſafe for us to *go down into Egypt*.

THE HONEST POLITICIAN.

* *Non anni domuere decem, non mille carinæ.*

Meſſieurs HALL & SELLERS.

GENTLEMEN,

I SHALL now preſent the public with the following extract, taken from a Maryland paper, with ſome animadverſions thereon.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Virginia to his friend in this city, dated May 19, 1779.

"I this moment received your's of the 14th, and am "much concerned that we are not likely to ſee you here "this ſummer, tho' I will not give up the hope. "Would to God my conjectures of the deſigns of the "enemy had proved wrong: It hurts me to think we "ſhall endure this campaign, eſpecially as I am convinced it might have been avoided, if we had acted "wiſely and honeſtly the laſt fall and winter. I do "from my ſoul believe we ſhould have had peace this "ſpring, had it not been for the—*execrable faction*."

The public may be aſſured, that the writer of this letter is a gentleman of character, and one who was both laſt fall and winter a member of the honourable congreſs. If the preſent diſtreſſes and ravages of war, and the expence of our blood and treaſure, is owing to the diſhoneſt and unwiſe practices and conduct of any man, or ſet of men, they ought to be expoſed to the public, and the meaſures they have ſo fatally purſued to be reprobated and condemned. This writer appears fully convinced that not only this campaign might have been avoided, had we acted honeſtly and wiſely laſt fall and winter, but that we ſhould have had peace this ſpring, had it not been for the *execrable faction*. Whatever faction has prevented peace, is execrable almoſt beyond the powers of language to expreſs; and I am extremely ſorry that this gentleman has not told us in plain words what faction it is, which has prevented a peace from taking place this ſpring.—Is it a tory faction, a Britiſh, or American faction?—We certainly know it cannot be a French faction; ſince his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty has from the firſt been averſe to a war with Great-Britain, and as early as the beginning of February laſt, by his miniſter, acquainted congreſs with his deſire for peace, and urged them to come to ſuch reſolutions, as might be the baſis for opening a treaty, and the putting an end to the ravages of war.

It is reported that congreſs are ſtill debating what the terms ſhall be, and that ſome men ſtrenuouſly inſiſt on ſuch, as others fear will not be agreed to, and as they apprehend may prevent any treaty at all; and ſuch as our ally, by his treaties with us, is by no means bound to ſupport us in demanding.—That theſe latter are very apprehenſive of the conſequences of inſiſting on articles, which may in the very firſt ſtage of a negociation bar, all future progreſs in the treaty, and poſſibly not only diſguſt our ally, but prevent other powers from offering to mediate, or to interfere at all in the diſpute. This is as important a ſubject as has ever fell under the conſideration of congreſs; and it is evident they conſider it as ſuch, having already ſpent more than four months without deciding on it, though repeatedly urged by the miniſter of France to come to their final reſolution.

No one, who is in the leaſt acquainted with the ſtate of public affairs, and the intereſt and views of the contending powers, will ever attribute our not having peace, or at leaſt a negociation opened for it, to a French intereſt or faction. This diſpute in congreſs has divided (as the diſcuſſion of every important queſtion naturally muſt) the houſe into two parties. Can it be ſuppoſed that either of theſe are deſigned by the phraſe *execrable faction*? If ſo, it is high time that not only the journals of congreſs, and the ayes and noes ſhould be publiſhed, but that the doors of the houſe ſhould be thrown open, and their conſtituents have an opportunity of judging for themſelves, who are the men who oppoſe themſelves to the peace and happineſs of theſe ſtates.—I am very ſenſible of the impropriety and the danger, as well as of the abſurdity, of debating in public on the terms to be propoſed in a treaty, on what is and what is not ultimately to be inſiſted on, or in what manner propoſals are firſt to be made, and how they may afterwards be explained or altered. But when this bleeding country is told, that an *execrable faction* prevents peace, it is but natural to enquire where this faction is, who compoſe it, and what are their views. Congreſs alone are inveſted with the powers of war and peace; this faction muſt therefore be in that body, or be ſo powerful at leaſt without doors, as to influence a majority of the votes within. From what this gentleman has poſitively aſſerted, and from general report, it cannot be doubted that overtures or propoſals of peace have been made from ſome quarter or other; whether they originated from France or Great-Britain, or in congreſs itſelf, is immaterial: Every one will agree that peace is an object moſt devoutly to be wiſhed for, if to be had on ſafe and honourable, as well as juſt and equal terms. What then can be the views of thoſe who oppoſe it? I preſume no one, whether in congreſs, or out, whether in the French, American, or Britiſh intereſt, is againſt a peace, though they may differ widely in their opinions, as to the terms on which it ought to be made. France, having no other intereſt or object in this war than the ſecuring our independence and ſovereignty, and the ſeparating us for ever from Great-Britain, by which her commerce would be enlarged, and that of her rival leſſened, and her increaſing maritime power checked,—it is evident, that terms which will ſecure this muſt be agreeable to France.—Had Great-Britain, when firſt made acquainted with the treaties between theſe United States and France, agreed to a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities, and offered to treat with us as ſovereign, independent ſtates, on terms ſimilar to thoſe in the treaties with France, what would have been the conſequence? Muſt it not have produced an immediate peace? France wiſhed to avoid a war, and had no demands on Great-Britain on her own account, but what might have been adjuſted without recourſe to arms. On our part, we did not take up arms with the view of conqueſt and acquiſition, either of new territories or rights. Our petitions, before hoſtilities were commenced, were "*for peace, liberty and ſafety, not for any new right in our favour*." If Great-Britain has actually made, or is willing to liſten to overtures of peace; if our ally is ſolicitous to put an end to hoſtilities, and to ſtop the further effuſion of human blood; if other powers, convinced of the juſtice of our cauſe, are willing and diſpoſed to offer their mediation; is it poſſible there can be a party, a faction, in theſe ſtates, and in their councils, who oppoſe themſelves to peace, and wiſh to prolong the horrors and calamities of war?—If ſuch a faction does exiſt, what are their motives and views? Do they wiſh to make acquiſitions to theſe ſtates by conqueſt; or do they imagine that in treaty we are in a ſituation to dictate the terms? Congreſs, in their declaration of independence, *in the name of the United States of America, ſolemnly publiſh and declare that theſe united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent ſtates, and that as free and independent ſtates they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, eſtabliſh commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent ſtates may of right do.* His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, convinced of the juſtice of this declaration, formed an alliance with theſe ſtates, by which he engaged to guarantee to them their ſovereignty and independence, as well as the territories to them belonging, and certain others, if in the courſe of the war they ſhoud acquire them.—The words of the treaty on this ſubject are as follow:

"ARTICLE 2d. The eſſential and direct end of the "preſent defenſive alliance is, to maintain effectually "the liberty, ſovereignty and independence, abſolute "and unlimited, of the ſaid United States, as well in "matters of government as of commerce."

"ARTICLE 11th. The two parties guarantee mutually, from the preſent time and for ever, againſt all "other powers, to wit, the United States to His Moſt "Chriſtian Majeſty, the preſent poſſeſſions of the crown "of France in America, as well as thoſe which it may "acquire by the future treaty of peace; and His Moſt "Chriſtian Majeſty guarantees on his part to the United States, their liberty, ſovereignty and independence, abſolute and unlimited, as well in matters of "government as commerce; and alſo their poſſeſſions, "and the additions or conqueſts that their confederation may obtain during the war, from any of the "dominions now or heretofore poſſeſſed by Great-Britain, in North America; conformable to the fifth "and ſixth articles above written, the whole as their "poſſeſſion ſhall be fixed and aſſured to the ſaid ſtates, "at the moment of the ceſſation of their preſent war "with England."

It is not my intention to make any obſervations on this, or any other parts of the treaties: They are evidently expreſſed in clear, unequivocal terms, and appear to have been dictated by plain, ſincere and ſound policy. There can be no doubt as to what the contracting parties, by thoſe treaties, guarantied to each other; but it is reported, that the debates and delays in congreſs, on the terms of the treaty propoſed to be opened, have ariſen from the deſire and wiſhes of ſome men to include in it certain objects and rights, which were not in our poſſeſſion, either at the time of the declaration of independence, or of the concluding the treaties of Paris: In a word, that a right of fiſhing on the banks of Newfoundland ſhall be acknowledged and guarantied to theſe ſtates, and that ſuch an article ſhall be made a *ſine qua non* of the treaty.

This fiſhery is undoubtedly an object of great conſequence to the United States, to two or three of them more eſpecially. But as theſe banks are not contiguous to the ſhores of any of theſe ſtates; as it is a queſtion, whether the ſubjects of theſe ſtates had any other right to that fiſhery, but what they derived from their being ſubjects of Great-Britain; and as it cannot be pretend-

ed they were in the poſſeſſion and enjoyment of ſuch right, either at the time of the declaration of independence, or of ſigning the treaties of Paris, nor that it was ever included in any one of the charters of the United States; it cannot be ſurpriſing that many, who judge a peace to be of the utmoſt importance to the intereſt and happineſs of theſe ſtates, ſhould be afraid of the conſequences which may follow from making this *an ultimatum* in a negociation; nor that, as France by treaty is not bound to guarantee any thing out of the dominions of theſe ſtates to them, unleſs acquired by their arms, and in their poſſeſſion at the time of pacification, can it be ſtrange that ſome men ſhould be apprehenſive whether France will ſupport this claim, and whether inſiſting on it may not tend to prevent the interpoſition and mediation of other powers? It is very natural that congreſs ſhould be divided on ſo important a queſtion; for though all of them are intereſted in obtaining this point, yet ſome of them are very remotely ſo, compared with others. It is very unhappy that this queſtion has been touched on or agitated at all at this time; and though the delay in reſolving finally upon it has been a principal cauſe of the continuance of the war, of this campaign at leaſt,—yet I cannot conſider, either thoſe who are for inſiſting on this as *an ultimatum*, or thoſe who are againſt ſaying any thing about it at preſent, to merit the harſh epithet of execrable faction. The policy of Britain, ever ſince the declaration of the Spaniſh ambaſſador to that court, that his maſter could not remain an idle ſpectator, but muſt offer his mediation, has been to poſtpone and put off this mediation as far as poſſible, and at all events until the end of this campaign, which they, in the mean time, reſolved to puſh with vigour, hoping to be able at the cloſe to treat on better terms than at the opening of it. There is undoubtedly a Britiſh faction in theſe ſtates, and many among us who are at heart in the Britiſh intereſt, and wiſh ſucceſs to our enemies. Theſe perſons and their faction may be juſtly ſtiled execrable; and the more ſo, as they frequently conceal and maſk themſelves, under the appearance of patriotiſm, and zeal for the public intereſt and honour. There are alſo not a few, who, though they will on no occaſion give up the independence of theſe ſtates,—yet in their hearts prefer a connection and alliance with England to any other, and will not be diſpleaſed to ſee the war continued, until ſuch an event can by ſome means or other be brought about. Though it cannot be ſuppoſed there are many of theſe characters in congreſs (if indeed there are any) yet it cannot be doubted that there are but too great a number out of doors, who exert themſelves inceſſantly on this occaſion, by throwing embarraſſments in the way of congreſs, and who at the ſame time, with a well affected zeal for the peace, liberty and happineſs of theſe ſtates, purſue meaſures pregnant with anarchy, confuſion, and evils as dreadful as the ravages of the moſt barbarous war itſelf can poſſibly be. The delaying the reſolutions, as to the terms on which we are willing to treat, has already produced the moſt miſchievous, if not fatal effects; among which we may number;—the rapid depreciation of our paper money, the fall of which, ſince the good people of theſe ſtates found themſelves deceived, as to the good news ſaid to have been received the beginning of February laſt, has been aſtoniſhingly great,—and the expences, as well as calamities and diſtreſſes of this campaign; the events of which are at beſt doubtful. If the inſiſting on conditions and terms, which neither the declaration of independency, nor the treaties of Paris, authoriſed us to challenge as our rights, has cauſed the late, otherways unaccountable delays, and prevented a peace, or at leaſt a negociation being opened for one, thoſe who have challenged and inſiſted on thoſe claims are juſtly reſponſible for all the conſequences.

Governor Johnſtone, in the houſe of commons, freely declared he had made uſe (whilſt in America) of other means to effect the purpoſes of his commiſſion, than ſimply thoſe of reaſon and argument. Have we not good right, from preſent appearances, to believe that in this inſtance he declared the truth? But to whom is it to be ſuppoſed he applied theſe means? To profeſſed tories, and Britiſh partizans, to keep them ſteady to the cauſe? To your moderate men, to induce them to perſevere in their hypocritical neutrality? No. He knew his buſineſs better; the firſt wanted no bribing, and the latter would but illy repay the purchaſe.

"Your cold hypocriſy's a ſtale device,
"A worn-out trick; would'ſt thou be thought in
"earneſt,
"Cloath thy feign'd zeal in rage, in fire, in fury."—

Philadelphia, June 13. AMERICANUS.

The ADDRESS *of the* COMMITTEE *of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, to their fellow-citizens throughout the United States,*

Friends and countrymen,

NECESSITY and convenience, have again called into being a body of men, hitherto known throughout the ſeveral parts of America by the name of committees; and we preſume that when the ſeveral reaſons therefor are collected and conſidered, that their re-inſtitution at this time will not only be juſtified, but approved and followed.

However, in the tranquil hours of peace, we may admire, and confine ourſelves to the guidance of written laws, yet in times of traiterous war, and more eſpecially ſo in an invaded country, they will in general be found too ſlow in their operation, too uncertain in their effects.

The ingenuity of men in the invention of new crimes, the proſtituted ingenuity of others, in ſkreening criminality from legal puniſhment; the additional opportunities which a ſtate of war affords to the ſubtile, the ſelfiſh, and diſaffected, together with the impoſſibility of legally deſcribing the numerous kinds of diſaffection, practicable in an invaded country, render the revival of committees during the preſent war, not only a convenient but a neceſſary appendage to civil government.

There are offences againſt ſociety which are not in all caſes offences againſt law, and for the prevention or puniſhment of which no written laws can be timely conſtructed, or ſufficiently applied. Circumſtances may combine to prove a man undeſerving the rank he may hold or the reſidence he may enjoy among the citizens of this or any other ſtate, and yet by ſome accidental defect of the laws in being, the perverſion of a well intended clauſe, the failure of immediate evidence, or even from the novelty of the crime, he may eſcape the puniſhment of a court of juſtice: in all ſuch caſes therefore, or others of a ſimilar nature, we hold this maxim, that where the offence is publicly dangerous or injurious, and the laws unable to relieve or puniſh, the community in its own defence, and for its further ſecurity, has a right to expel.

Formidable as the puniſhment of expulſion may appear, we nevertheleſs juſtify the right of uſing it on the grounds and principles of citizenſhip, and the admitted and immemorial cuſtom of mankind. It is a right claimed and exerciſed by every ſeparate ſociety in this and all other countries, and as the community at large is an incorporated collection of the ſeveral parts, therefore the right of the whole cannot be inferior to the parts of which it is compoſed.

It is inconſiſtent to ſuppoſe that the lenity of our laws, or their ſilence on crimes we can have no conception of, are to become a ſafeguard to the diſaffected in their acts of ſtudied delinquency, or that no other offences are puniſhable in an invaded country, than what are to be found in the laws of a ſettled and well regulated ſociety. We cannot conſtruct laws that will reach all caſes, and therefore we maintain the right, as well as the neceſſity of holding every man accountable to the community, for ſuch parts of his conduct by which the public welfare appears to be injured or diſhonoured, and for which no legal redreſs can be obtained.

In times of war and invaſion, we conceive it neceſſary that a diſcretionary power ſhould exiſt ſomewhere; for as the authority of civil government cannot, without exceeding its bounds, or deſcending from its character, extend to all the circumſtances that may ariſe; therefore a numerous race of ſubtile or new invented offences, will, without the interpoſition of ſuch a power, have a certain and extenſive latitude to act in, unreſtrained and unpuniſhable by law.

To blend ſuch a power with the conſtitutional authority of the ſtate, would, according to our ideas of liberty and conception of things, be unwiſe and unſafe; becauſe being once incorporated therewith, the ſeparation might afterwards be difficult, and that which was originally admitted as a temporary convenience, juſtified by neceſſity, might in time eſtabliſh itſelf into a perpetual evil, and be claimed as a matter of right.

The exertions which are ſometimes neceſſary to be made by the inhabitants of an invaded country, for their own preſervation and defence, are frequently of ſuch a peculiar and extraordinary quality, that as they ought not to become the rule of legal government in times of peace, ſhould not be mixed therewith in times of war; for that which in the community may be the ſpirit of liberty, introduced into the laws would become its deſtroyer. Therefore as we cannot, on the one hand, permit our laws to be equivocally conſtructed and diſcretionarily applied, in order to fit and bend them to every new caſe, ſo neither ought we on the other hand, to ſuffer the general intereſt to be ſapped by a ſpecies of delinquents, who governed by avarice, or prompted by defection, are ſtudying to evade what they dare not tranſgreſs.

It is to thoſe evils, too amphibious to be defined, and too ſubtile as well as too tranſitory to become the object of eſtabliſhed laws, that we wiſh to apply a remedy, capable of ſuiting itſelf to the variety of the offence, without oppoſing the rules of its inſtitution, and this we conceive can be no other than the diſcretionary power of the citizens organized, and acting through a committee.

The condition of an invaded country ſufficiently proves the exerciſe of ſuch a power neceſſary, and we have already ſtated our reaſons why it ought to be detached from the legal government. It is furthermore our opinion that the exerciſe of diſcretionary powers for the redreſs of temporary evils, is beſt intruſted with temporary bodies, becauſe when the neceſſity which called forth ſuch powers ſhall ceaſe, the occaſion of ſuch bodies ceaſes therewith, and the authority of civil government, undiſturbed and untempted, continue its original channel.

We are likewiſe of opinion that the laws already in being, would derive great ſupport from the re-inſtitution of committees, and that ſuch a reinforcement of power to the powers of government is neceſſary in an invaded country. It is the beſt if not the only mode by which the community can conveniently throw in their portion of aſſiſtance, and contribute to the authority of the ſtate. The fear of offending againſt the general intereſt, where a mode of puniſhment is provided, which can be eaſily and powerfully executed, is a forceable inducement to legal obedience, and operates with peculiar efficacy on thoſe whom no public principle can reſtrain.

Such being our thoughts on the ſubject, we ſubmit them to the conſideration of our fellow-citizens, in every part of the United States, and ſhall now proceed to give our ſentiments on a matter to which the uſefulneſs of committees may with particular advantage be eaſily and extenſively applied. We mean the reinſtating and ſupporting the credit of our currency.

It is a well known maxim, that that which is every body's buſineſs, is no body's buſineſs. Each one looks with diſcontent at the other; the expectation is returned and continued, and every one is ſurpriſed that no one begins. Such has been the ſtate of our currency for ſome conſiderable time paſt, and ſuch it will continue to be, until it be put under the care of particular bodies, preſent in all places, who ſhall be empowered to watch againſt the means by which it has been depreciated, prevent their encreaſe, and puniſh them on detection.

The hope of the enemy appears to be principally fixed on what they would ſtile the bankruptcy of the continent, occaſioned by a failure of the currency. Every one among us ſeemed to apprehend its probability, and though all appeared to lay it to heart, no one lent his hand to prevent it. Every day made the matter worſe, and the taſk heavier. We looked at one another, complained, murmured and went away.

Yet ſo miſtaken and extraordinary have been our conduct, that while we dreaded the evil we invited it on, and haſtened to meet the event we wiſhed to avoid. At the rate we were going from January to May, a ſtate of bankruptcy muſt have taken place in the ſpace of a few weeks. A bankruptcy of a paradoxical kind. A bankruptcy produced, not by the want of money, but by the abundance of it. Such has been the condition we were unwiſely [illegible] to, and which is now become the object that claims our attention.

By the efforts of the inhabitants of this city on the 25th of May, a ſtop has been put to the depreciation, and afforded us an opportunity of ſubmitting the whole to the conſideration of all.

For once we ſhall leave public ſpirit and public virtue out of the queſtion, and addreſs our arguments to the intereſt, rather than the honour, [illegible] rather than the patriotiſm of individuals.

To what end is it that we get money with one hand and depreciate in the other? Let the planter, the merchant, the miſer, and any or every other order of men realize their wealth at this time, and they will find themſelves poorer in value though richer in quantity than they were laſt Chriſtmas [illegible] avarice in this inſtance operates without its uſual [illegible] and we mutually impoveriſh ourſelves to be [illegible] for each other.

We [illegible] poſſible that the property of America could fail, her lands become barren, [illegible] agriculture extinguiſhed and population [illegible], the currency would then want a foundation [illegible] an ability for its redemption; becauſe [illegible] would be a repreſentation of nothing. Or did the credit of it depend on foreign loans, it would then, like all other matters of favour, be ſubject to interruption and diſappointment. Beſides which we ſhould be doing only exchange one debt for another, leſs ſuited to our intereſt and more expenſive to redeem. But the caſe now is otherwiſe. We are both debtor and creditor. We not only hold the money, but we poſſeſs the property by which it is to be made good, and nothing but our own conſent is wanting to make it of what value we pleaſe.

Yet notwithſtanding theſe advantages, the rage for raiſing prices will, unleſs it be put a ſtop to, become the ruin both of thoſe who contrived it, and thoſe who follow it. We ſhall deſcend from pounds to ſhillings, from ſhillings to pence, and from pence to nothing. It has long been ſaid that trade will regulate itſelf, yet ſufficient experience has ſhewn that the maxim, though admittedly true in ſome caſes, is not ſo in all. While monopolizers are ſuffered to exiſt, who by ſtepping in between the importer and the retail purchaſer can produce a ſcarcity when they chuſe, or by their tranſporting their goods backward and forward from ſtate to ſtate can occaſionally create a want in any or in all, or while the retailer by laying on what profits he pleaſes, becomes regardleſs of what prices he gives, or how much they outbid each other. In all theſe caſes trade is deprived of its chance and becomes clogged with a diſeaſe, which left to itſelf will deſtroy its credit and produce its deſtruction.

By laying an additional price on what we have to ſell, be it what it may, we lay a loſs upon the money we have in hand, more than equal to the advance we get; and while we are counting the profits of a ſale, the depreciation upon the capital makes a balance againſt us: the inſtant one article riſes another riſes in double proportion againſt it, and the hope of him who made the firſt advance is defeated by the practice of all around him. In ſhort, we ſeem not to be ſenſible that we cannot raiſe our prices without turning the tide of our own currency againſt us, which running faſter and more forcibly down, than we are able to row up, carry us deceitfully away, and all our labour turns to no account.

If for the ſake of leaving a little trade to regulate itſelf, the whole community is to be impoveriſhed, the public faith ſuſpected and impeached, and the abilities of the ſtates reduced and weakened, it is time to take the matter up on the moſt ſerious and determined grounds, for we had better be without trade, than expoſed to the conſequences it has hitherto produced.

Under proper regulations, and carried on with principle and honeſty, it might render to us every advantage which, in times like theſe, we ought to look for; but left to itſelf, to find its own balance by no other practice than extortion, and to regulate itſelf upon the ruins of public credit, and at the hazard of national ſucceſs, is an evil too dangerous to be admitted, too ſerious to be trifled with.

It is in vain that we complain of the currency, unleſs we comply with meaſures for reſtoring it; and which, if we do not, we ſhall aſſuredly ſink in our own hands, the hoards and funds, that, if ſupported would make us rich. The money is our own. No power is bound to make it good, if we, whoſe property it is, make it otherwiſe. Beſides which, we ought to reflect, that the public faith, or the United States is but another name for ourſelves, and that while we individually undervalue the currency we diminiſh the faith and abilities of the ſtates, on whoſe credit it is uttered. Neither can we have any right to demand in one character a value, we deny to it in the other.

The means by which it has been depreciated are too numerous to be aſcertained, and too intricate to be explained; but we in a particular manner caution you againſt thoſe who affect to treat it lightly, in order to give a colourable pretence to their own extortion, and then clamorouſly cry out, "*Why is it not made better?*" neglecting at the ſame time to remember that their own practices contribute to its unneceſſary reduction.

Having ſaid thus much on the ſubject, we ſhall conclude, with recommending it to our ſiſter ſtates, to concur with us in meaſures, abſolutely neceſſary at this time, for redeeming and ſupporting the credit of our currency, and of conſequence, individual proſperity. We wiſh to ſee committees formed in every ſtate and county, whoſe immediate buſineſs it ſhall be to watch againſt the depreciation, and promote the value of the money; and that whenever they ſhall diſcover any perſon or perſons traducing the ſame, by demanding or giving more than a juſt and regulated price, that they ſummon a meeting of the inhabitants at ſome convenient time and place, to determine what portion of diſgrace and diſapprobation ſuch perſon or perſons ſhall undergo.

We have for the preſent propoſed to reduce our prices month by month. But in order to carry the matter into extenſive and effectual execution, by a rule that will agree to all places and things, we are of opinion, that a univerſal regulation, capable of applying itſelf in all caſes, may be formed by the following plan: each ſtate, for itſelf, to aſcertain what the prices of the ſeveral articles of produce and importation were in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-four, and to multiply that price by ſome certain num-

ber to be agreed upon for all the ſtates, and the price ſo multiplied to become the regulated price.

In this regulation it is to be remembered that the prices of imported goods are higher in war time than articles of produce, and the exact difference is the expence of convoy and rate of inſurance. Therefore whatever thoſe are, are to be added to the price ſuch goods would otherwiſe be at, at the place of importation.

And in order to confine the ſellers of dry goods to ſome fixed rule, and to prevent the hitherto ſcandalous exactions and extortion practiſed by ſome of them, every ſeller of dry goods to write on the ſeveral articles he or ſhe deals in, or on a paper affixed thereto, the price ſuch goods was worth or ſold for in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-four.

We likewiſe recommend to every ſtate to open an office for the inſurance of ſuch veſſels and cargoes only as belong to perſons reſident in ſuch ſtate, and that no perſon ſhall inſure in any other office, or any perſon for him, than ſhall be eſtabliſhed in the ſtate he lives in. By this means the rate of inſurance will be known, and one pretence for extortion cut off.

We furthermore recommend to retailers or other perſons who may have money to ſpare to open ſubſcriptions for raiſing funds for importing their own goods, under the management of perſons to be choſen by a majority of the ſubſcribers.

And in order to prevent the unneceſſary removal of goods from one ſtate to another under vario s pretences, by which the prices are enhanced, it is hereby propoſed, that the inhabitants of any ſtate, whoſe ports may at any time be blocked up or rendered unſafe, ſhall have full privilege to import their cargoes into this port, and to remove the ſame under the management of a ſworn agent of their own appointing; and this we preſume will more effectually anſwer their purpoſe than their depending too much on the purchaſes they may hope to make of goods already imported—Becauſe by encouraging importation we in a great meaſure prevent monopolizing.

It gives the well affected inhabitants of this city, and their committee, great pleaſure to find, that the meaſures lately adopted are ſo generally approved, and ſo warmly ſupported. We can only call it a beginning, and hope to ſee it productive of univerſal benefit.

The committee have already received letters of approbation and requeſt from ſeveral of the neighbouring ſtates, and we in a particular manner invite and call on our fellow-citizens of the ſtate of Maryland, becauſe we are perſuaded that the contrivances which have been carried on between this city and Baltimore, have in an extraordinary manner contributed to undermine the value of our currency.

We are now arrived at a period at which nothing can hurt us but want of honeſty, and in which to be rich or to be poor depends on our own choice and conſent; and ſuch being truly our ſituation, we ſubmit the further conſideration thereof to the wiſdom, juſtice and patriotiſm of the ſtates in union.

Signed in behalf and by order of the committee,

WILLIAM BRADFORD, chairman.

Committee-room, June 26, 1779.

The printers in the ſeveral ſtates are requeſted to inſert the above addreſs in their papers.

COMMITTEE-ROOM, *June 26, 1779.*

AGREEABLE to the reſolution of the laſt general town-meeting, for lowering the prices month by month, the following liſt of ſeveral arti les, and the prices they bore on the firſt day of April laſt, is publiſhed for the guidance of buyer and ſeller, for the month of July, and to commence on the firſt day thereof.

And the ſeveral dealers and others are likewiſe deſired to take notice, that if any article or articles, whether mentioned in this liſt or not, ſhall, after the firſt of July, be charged higher than the ſame was charged on the firſt day of April laſt, that ſuch perſon or perſ ns will, on detection, be proceeded againſt in the ſame manner as if ſuch article or articles were herein mentioned and limited.

And it is furthermore intended that the regulations do take place as well in the markets as the ſhops, of which all perſons, as well buyers as ſellers, are deſired to take notice, and abide the conſequences.

And whereas murmurings and diſcontents have ariſen reſpecting the price of butter: Therefore

Reſolved, That if any inhabitant of this city ſhall give more than fifteen ſhillings for a pound of butter, ſuch perſon or perſons ſo purchaſing, whether man or woman, ſhall either be ſummoned to appear at the next town-meeting, or pay twenty ſhillings into the hands of this committee, to be applied to the relief of the poor; one half thereof to the poor of this city, and the other half to the poor of the townſhip where the ſeller of ſuch butter ſhall live.

PRICES of the following articles on the firſt of April, which are to continue for the month of July.

	WHOLESALE.	RETAIL.
Coffee	per lb. 0 15 0	per lb. 0 16 0
Chocolate	do. 1 17 6	do. 2 0 0
Bohea tea	do. 4 10 0	do. 4 15 0
Common green do.	5 10 0	from 6l. to 7 10 0
Beſt hyſon do.	18 0 0	20 0 0
Weſt-India rum pr gal.	6 5 0	6 12 6
Country ditto	4 10 0	4 15 0
French ditto	4 10 0	4 15 0
Muſcovado ſugar from 90l. to 95l. per hundred		from 15ſ. to 20ſ. per lb.
Loaf ſugar from [illegible] 6 to 2 10 0 per pound		from [illegible] to 5[illegible]/6 per lb.
Rice		5ſ. per lb.
French indigo per lb.	2 15 0	[illegible]
Carolina ditto	2 0 0	[illegible]
Black pepper	2 17 6	[illegible]
Cotton from 40ſ. to 52ſ.		45ſ. to 60ſ.
[illegible]		8ſ.
Candles	[illegible]	35ſ.
Beſt hard ſoap	[illegible]	[illegible]
Butter		
Bloomery bar iron per ton [illegible]		per [illegible] wt. 18l.
[illegible]	[illegible]	16l.
Nail rod iron	[illegible]	55l.
Sheet iron per lb.	[illegible]	per lb. [illegible]
[illegible]		per lb. [illegible]
[illegible] leather		by the ſide 150ſ.
A [illegible] with one four pair of ſhoes		180ſ.
Harneſs leather		per lb. [illegible]
Bridle ditto		per ſide 150ſ.
Boots per pair		from 35l. to 40l.
Mens beſt leather ſhoes		from [illegible]ſ. to 150ſ.
Womens ſhoes		120ſ.

The committee have continued the price of flour, middlings, &c. the ſame as on the laſt month, and are happy to inform the public, that the price of molaſſes and the various kinds of ſalt are at preſent lower than on the firſt of April, and the committee expect they will not be raiſed higher than at preſent.

WHEREAS under pretence of ſupplying our fellow-citizens in the country, great quantities of goods, are daily removed from this city, and there is reaſon to believe, with a deſign of concealment, in order to produce a ſcarcity: Therefore

Reſolved, That if any goods, exceeding the value of one hundred pounds, be removed or offered to be removed from this city, without firſt obtaining a permit from this committee; ſuch goods, ſo removed or offered to be removed, ſhall, on detection, be detained under the care of the committee, until the next town meeting, and the owner to abide the conſequences.

Signed by order of the committee,

WILLIAM HENRY, chairman.

BOSTON, *June 14.*

TUESDAY laſt we hear, a ſhip of about 250 tons, being one of the Cork fleet, laden with proviſions, was taken by capt. Friend, in a ſmall privateer ſchooner, belonging to Newbury, and carried in there.

Friday laſt arrived here the prize private ſhip of war Revenge, captain Sheppard, formerly known by the name of the Blaze Caſtle, mounting 26 carriage guns, beſides cohorns, ſwivels, &c. She was captured by the three letters of marque, Cadwallader, Minerva, and Charming Sally, after an obſtinate reſiſtance of near two hours; ſhe had five men killed and a number wounded, and the ſhip much ſhattered.—The Cadwallader and Minerva had not a man hurt; the Charming Sally had one killed and three wounded, among which was the captain, though not dangerous.—The privateer was principally owned by Sir George Collier, and had made prize of one ſmall letter of marque brig, before ſhe was taken, and was but twelve days from Halifax.

Yeſterday ſe'nnight, about day-break, a body of the enemy landed at Point-Judith, and collected a number of horned cattle and ſome ſheep, but being attacked by colonel Henry Jackſon's light troops and a few militia, they ſoon retreated to their boats, and left moſt of their booty behind, taking with them eight of the inhabitants. Several of their wounded were carried on board their boats. We had three men wounded. There have been four or five ſkirmiſhes ſince, the particulars of which we have not yet learnt.

Yeſterday arrived here two brigs, laden with rum and molaſſes. They were retaken by the Hazard and Tyrannicide; which alſo took the privateer Lively, captain Stout, from New-York, (who took the abovementioned brigs) and ſent her, together with a prize ſloop, into a ſafe port.

June 17. Laſt Sunday a brig arrived at Marblehead in 22 days from Cape François, the maſter of which informs, that a ſhip from Liverpool of 550 tons, laden with goods of all kinds, and ſeveral other prizes of value, were ſent into that port by a French privateer. Alſo that his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's cruiſers were in almoſt every part of the Weſt-Indies, and were extremely ſucceſsful.

A large topſail ſchooner, laden with 92 hogſheads of genuine cod-fiſh, 90 barrels of mackarel, &c. &c. the property of Dr. Prince, a noted villain, formerly of Salem, now reſiding at Halifax, was taken and ſent into Marblehead laſt Friday, by the privateer Terrible, who was left in chace of another veſſel out of Halifax, laden with fiſh.

A prize ſloop, loaded with rum, ſugar, fruit, &c. from St. Kitts, bound to Newport, was taken by the Bever privateer, and carried into New-London, laſt Friday.

The privateer Hancock has taken the privateer ſchooner Hawke, from New-York, and carried her ſafe into New-London, laſt Lord's day. The Hawke had taken four or five prizes, and ſent them into New-York.

Two or three privateers from Salem have taken a large ſhip from London, bound to Quebec, laden with 400 hogſheads of rum, ſome bale goods, &c. which is hourly expected in port.

FISH-KILL, *June 24.*

The main body of the Britiſh army continues at Ver Plank's Point and in their uſual way diſtreſs the inhabitants, by taking their cattle and houſehold goods, without paying for them, ſparing neither whig nor tory. It is apprehended they mean to attack our fort. By a deſerter we learn, that a number of heavy artillery were brought up from Kingſbridge laſt Monday.

It is reported, that a ſpy was taken up on the other ſide of the river ſome days ago, with diſpatches for general Clinton from colonel Butler, informing, that he could not proceed againſt the back ſettlements for want of proviſions, and was under the neceſſity of tarrying at Niagara.

On Saturday the 5th inſtant, a great majority of the citizens of Albany, aſſembled at the market houſe, unanimouſly nominated a committee, for the purpoſe of taking into conſideration and adopting meaſures to check the evils ariſing from the depreciation of the continental currency, to prevent monopolies, to reduce the exorbitant prices exacted for the neceſſaries of life, and to reſtrain a variety of other abuſes and impoſitions.

The committee immediately met, and after electing general Ten Broeck chairman, and adopting ſeveral ſalutary regulations, among which the prohibiting the circulation of ſpecie, and the reduction of the prices of many of the neceſſaries and conveniencies of life, were the moſt remarkable, proceeded to addreſs circular letters expreſſive of their intentions, to the inhabitants of the ſeveral diſtricts of Albany county.

A numerous meeting being convened at the requeſt of the committee, they required the approval or diſapproval of their conſtituents to the meaſures they had ſuggeſted, and had the ſatisfaction of finding, that thoſe meaſures were approved of [illegible] ty; and it is ſuppoſed, from the [illegible] in, and the conformity to, thoſe regulations which the citizens of every rank have [illegible],

that the reſolves of the committee will be ſtrictly adhered to and rigorouſly enforced.

TRENTON, *June 23.*

By a gentleman who made his eſcape from New-York on Friday laſt, we learn, that Sir Harry Clinton returned there on Saturday ſe'nnight with his ſuite and baggage, from his tour up the North river—that captain Armſtrong, with ſeveral other officers, taken in fort la Fayette, contrary to the articles of capitulation, were ſtripped of their ſide-arms on their arrival at New-York—that the Delaware frigate, mounting 32 guns, with 200 men, commanded by captain Mason, was taken and ſent to an eaſtern port, by the Boſton frigate—that the Roſe man of war of 20 guns, captain Reid, with [illegible] men, was ſunk in an engagement with one of our frigates—that an armed ſhip of 20 guns, belonging to Mr. Totton in New-York, with ſeveral other armed veſſels, have been lately taken by the Queen of France and one other of our frigates off Sandy-hook, and ſent to the eaſtward—that a ſhort time after fort la Fayette ſurrendered, fifteen waggon loads of the enemy's wounded were brought into New-York at night—and that general Clinton has ſent for all the troops from Halifax.

STATE of NEW-JERSEY.

HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, *June 21, 1779.*

WHEREAS the legiſlature of this ſtate hath paſſed "An act for calling out of circulation, and for ſinking all bills of credit, heretofore emitted in this ſtate while the ſame was a colony," in and by which it is enacted, that "all bills of credit emitted by laws, and likewiſe all thoſe emitted by an ordinance of the late provincial congreſs of this ſtate, ſhall be brought into the treaſury, to be exchanged, on or before the firſt day of January next," and, "all thoſe bills which ſhall not be ſo brou ht in, on or before that day, ſhall be for ever after irredeemable."

And whereas many of thoſe bills may be in the hands of perſons reſiding in the neighbouring ſtates, which, unleſs timely notice be given, may not be brought in within the time limited, to the great injury of the poſſeſſors, to prevent which;

Reſolved, That the printers of public news-papers, in this and the neighbouring ſtates, be requeſted to inſert the above extracts from ſaid law, in their papers, and continue the ſame at leaſt four weeks, for the information of all perſons concerned.

By order of the houſe,

J. PHILLIPS, clerk.

PHILADELPHIA, *June 29.*

The examination of two deſerters, taken here on Saturday laſt.

"They were of the 17th Britiſh infantry; left King's-Ferry the 18th inſt. when the baggage and cannon were embarked in order, as they apprehend, to proceed againſt the fort at Weſt-Point. The royal army they ſuppoſe to be nine or ten thouſand; the company they belonged to 45 in number, beſides commiſſion officers, yet the ſtrongeſt in the regiment. A ſtrong work at Stony-Point had been formed, wherein four guns, 24 pounders, and four long twelves, are erected.

"The Britiſh forces on this ſide of the Hudſon, were the 17th, 60th and 64th regiments infantry, and about fifty yagers. Two large ſhips of war, two row-gallies, bombs, &c. and above thirty tranſports, lay near the army.

"General Clinton had been down to New-York but was returned. The enemy had built two block-houſes on the eaſtern ſide of the Hudſon. Their deſertions, of late, have been very great."

Other accounts ſome days later, repreſent the motions of the enemy as uncertain. Our officers wiſh they may attack Fort Clinton, but fear they will not.

A gentleman from Albany tells us, that the American forces in that quarter had marched for Fort Schuyler; that ſeveral tories had been brought in priſoners for attempting to burn Johnſtown; and that the new committee proceeded vigorouſly in ſupporting the regulated prices; two traders having been detected in offending, and brought to their marrow-bones for it.

By the Betſey prize, from St. Chriſtophers, we underſtand that ſome armed merchant veſſels with valuable cargoes, were ſhortly to ſail together for New-York.

Some weeks ſince capt. Joſiah, and two others, in letters of marque, bound from this port for the Weſt-Indies, obliged a privateer of ten guns, belonging to New-York, to ſtrike to them, but by leaving too many of the former crew on board, opportunity was given to the priſoners to riſe. They made uſe of it, and we hear ſhe is arrived at New-York.

It appears that capt. Bethel, in a ſchooner from Havanna, was captured by a ſmall cruiſer, ſouthward of cape Henlopen, but he and his ſeamen ſet aſhore in Maryland.

A private letter of the 7th inſtant, found in the prize from St. Auguſtine, mentions the arrival of the Perſeus and Ariel, Britiſh ſhips of war, from Jamaica, at that port. The Experiment, Wallace, was looked for. They were to cruiſe on the coaſt.

Extract of a letter from Albany, dated June 16, 1779, to a gentleman in this city.

"We rejoice that ſo noble a ſpirit prevails among you, and that the Philadelphians, who lately had the name of the greateſt extortioners on the continent, now freely ſtep forth to remedy the evil which threatened deſtruction to the land. I hope you will perſevere in it, until extortioners and monopolizers are known no more among you. We in this little city have cheerfully followed your example. We have choſen a committee, who have regulated the prices of goods, and have wrote to the ſeveral diſtricts, to come into the ſame meaſure, which it is expected they will cheerfully do.

"Laſt week two tranſgreſſors, who *ſold rum for more than the regulated price,* were publicly cried through the city by order of the committee, as having incurred the juſt indignation of the people. The [illegible] ed them immediately to appear before them, being met at the market-houſe, where, by falling on their knees on a ſcaffold, they acknowledged themſelves guilty, and promiſed to abide by and aſſiſt the orders of the committee, upon which they were diſcharged. It is earneſtly wiſhed and hoped the town of Boſton and its ſtate will come into the meaſure; for if they do not, we ſhall cut off all trade and commerce with it, and confine

ourſelves to Philadelphia. Hard money is not to paſs here any more; we have lately hung up and burned in effigy a dealer in hard money.

"P. S. I juſt now hear that all our diſtricts have choſen committees, and are regulating the prices of country produce."

July 2. The ſloop Hornet, a few days ago, off Egg harbour, took the ſloop Clinton, captain Parks, from New-Providence for New-York.—She had ſome days before fallen in with the Hammond, of New-York, who had taken poſſeſſion of her, and put a prize maſter on board, ſuſpecting ſhe was bound for this port.

By captain Wilſon, who arrived here laſt Wedneſday in fourteen days from the Havannah, we are informed, that Spain, on the 11th of April laſt, acknowledged the independence of the United ſtates of America.

BALTIMORE, *June* 29.

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, dated June 24, 1779.

"Our preſent ſituation is truly alarming, and is briefly as follows:—A junto early formed in congreſs, have, by ſome means or other, contrived to keep their principal leaders, either actually in the houſe, or in ſome of the moſt important departments; and by acting conſtantly in concert, have at laſt brought it about, that a minority, and a ſmall one too, can retard, delay, and even obſtruct, every proceeding. The foundation of this junto was laid during the ſitting of the firſt congreſs. At that period there were many real grounds, as well as ſome pretended ones, for ſuſpecting New-York, and one or two others of the middle ſtates. This naturally led the northern and ſouthern ones to unite the more ſtrictly in the meaſures then purſuing, to obtain the great objects in view. It is not my intention to give you the hiſtory of this junto at preſent, but will only inform you, that for upwards of twelve months paſt, a club has been formed of certain of the delegates from New-England, New-Jerſey, and this ſtate, and of two or three members from the ſouthward.—They meet regularly, debate upon, and adjuſt the manner of their proceedings; and congreſs, at all times, being a fluctuating and changing body, theſe men, acting in concert, are able to keep back or obſtruct any meaſure whatever, until, by the abſence of ſome members, and the diviſion of others, they can, with a ſmall majority, carry the vote as they pleaſe.

"By accident I have had a ſight and peruſal of Mr. Deane's narrative, and I find that the firſt thing done by him, after his return, was to inform congreſs, that a foreign loan, if early and properly applied for, might be obtained; but that every day's delay rendered it more uncertain and difficult.

"The neceſſity of our procuring a foreign loan is generally acknowledged; and, as we now experience paper currency to be no real property, but only the repreſentative of money, it ſeems to be the deſire of the people, that this meaſure ſhould be adopted; but already a jealouſy has ariſen, and the queſtion is, who ſhall have the negociating of it?—This has produced already much canvaſſing in ſecret, relative to the plenipotentiary to be ſent abroad on this important buſineſs.

"The character with which Mr. Deane returned from the court of France, and the reputation, it was apprehended, he would acquire from the treaties, and the fleet ſolicited for and obtained by him, together with the little attention (much too little for his intereſt or peace) which he paid thoſe who formed this cabal, and who he knew had been ſecretly his enemies, ſet theſe men to move every engine in their power, to prevent his either receiving the approbation of congreſs for what he had done, or having any opportunity to ſerve his country further. Effectually to do this, every artifice was made uſe of to delay a deciſion on his affairs, and to ſpread, in the mean time, calumnious inſinuations againſt him, among the people. Unjuſtly and ungratefully indeed he has been treated! but had he only ſuffered, if this had been all, we might have been happy. Many are the evils the public have laboured under, in conſequence of this—the parties and factions raiſed on his and Mr. Lee's account, have retarded and put off matters of infinitely greater importance; and, in fact, brought us into our preſent diſagreeable ſituation. It is certain that France does not wiſh a continuance of the war; Spain has long ſince been arming, and as early as in November laſt, formally offered her mediation, and plainly declared, ſhe could no longer remain an inactive ſpectator of the ruin of the commerce of France, if her mediation ſhould be refuſed. France, juſtly ſuppoſing that England would, on this, incline to peace, and apprehenſive that application might be made to congreſs, to treat ſeparately, immediately ſent to their miniſter here, to apply to congreſs, and to urge them (if they needed urging) to loſe no time in coming to reſolutions on what terms they would treat, and to appoint a perſon, or perſons, to repair to Europe with ample powers for that purpoſe; at the ſame time the ſtrongeſt aſſurances were given of the friendſhip and aſſiſtance of France, and even of Spain, if their reſolutions, as to the terms of a treaty of peace, were ſuch as ſhould be honourable and juſt.

"The miniſter waited on congreſs early in February, with a meſſage and information, to this purpoſe; and, in a long interview with them, preſſed on them diſpatch, in the moſt forcible terms. This was really the ſubject, which gave riſe to the report of great and good news, with which the whole continent was for ſome time amuſed.

England, on her part, rightly judging that Spain would not take an active part, until her mediation ſhould be refuſed, and that ſhe could not, without knowing the terms of America, have any grounds to go on, with certainty; and doubtleſs finding other means to amuſe and delay Spain, determined to exert her whole force, during this interval, and try the fortune of another campaign, in which ſuch events might arrive as might enable them to treat with more advantage on their ſide. They were further induced to this, by having the ſupplies cheerfully voted in the houſe of commons, and having no continental war in Europe, they had no fear of loſing any thing, and might gain much. In diſcuſſing what had been communicated and propoſed by France to congreſs, two objects are ſaid to have been in view; the firſt, what the terms ſhould be, and then who ſhould be ſent out charged with them. What and how many terms congreſs have agreed upon, I know not; but though the miniſter has been every week urging them to finiſh, they have, to this hour, delayed the giving him any anſwer. The difficulty ariſes from the New-England delegates inſiſting, as I am informed, on making our right to fiſh on the banks of Newfoundland, &c. a *ſine qua non*. They are, as is credibly whiſpered, joined in this, by ſome gentlemen from the other extremity of theſe ſtates, and who firmly ſtand by each other, as they doubtleſs mean mutually to ſerve and carry on each others purpoſes. Thus, as far as I can learn, the matter reſts at preſent; and thus have the people of theſe ſtates been deceived with the hopes of peace, whilſt by theſe meaſures, they will be expoſed to ſuffer all the extremities of the reverſe.

"You will juſtly be ſurpriſed, when I tell you, that our commiſſioners at Paris appear totally ignorant of what is doing in either France, Spain, or England; for it is impoſſible they ſhould be informed, and never write one ſyllable about it.

"But what muſt be your ſurpriſe, when I aſſure you that congreſs was informed, and that by two of their members, in writing, that the French miniſter had expreſſly declared, and wrote, that he could place no confidence in Mr. Lee, for he feared, or ſuſpected him, and thoſe about him—What, I ſay, muſt be your ſurpriſe, to find this party able, after this, to counteract a large majority of congreſs, and prevent his recall! It is well known this gentleman's former private ſecretary was of a very ſuſpicious character; that after going ſeveral times privately back and forth from Paris to London, he took up his reſidence in London, under the protection of the Britiſh miniſtry; and that the man who ſucceeded him, as Mr. Lee's ſecretary, was one *Ford*, a moſt infamous tory, and refugee parſon, from London, whither he had fled from Virginia, to avoid the vengeance of his countrymen, and where he lived, like other refugees, until he went over to Paris, and entered on his ſecretaryſhip, under Mr. Lee. You will hardly credit this, but they are facts, and have long ſince been well atteſted and laid before congreſs. By this one inſtance, you will be able to judge of the ſtrength of this minority, and to what lengths they will go in promoting private views, and ſupporting of their party, family connections, and intereſt. Were I to give you all the inſtances which have come to my knowledge, of tranſactions of a ſimilar complexion, and of the wretched deranged ſtate of our finances, and other departments; and alſo of the trifling ſubjects which have repeatedly engaged congreſs, for days and weeks together, during the laſt important ſix or eight months, I ſhould fill a volume, and might, with great propriety, entitle it, "*The Book of Lamentations:*" But to lament is to no purpoſe; and unleſs different meaſures are purſued, I dread the conſequences.

"Governor Johnſton, you muſt remember, openly declared in parliament, that he had made uſe (when in America) of other means than thoſe of perſuaſion and argument, to effect the purpoſes of his commiſſion. What thoſe means were, the preſent times demonſtrate—they already begin to have their dreadful effects—anarchy is now labouring to rear her tattered but bloody ſtandard in this capital. In a word, unleſs this party and faction can be broke (for until it is, the ſame meaſures will be purſued) we ſhall be in danger at leaſt of being ruined, and that ſuddenly, by ourſelves.

"You will communicate the contents of this to whom you think proper; but I fear, at this time, that the public at large ſhould know even the truth in its full extent; and yet it is cruel to keep them in ſuſpenſe and ignorance, whilſt accumulated ruin is preparing to burſt on them from every quarter.

"I will give you one inſtance with what induſtry this party, this ſelect phalanx, conduct their manœuvres: The night before it was expected the queſtion on Mr. Lee's recall was to be put, an expreſs was ſent off into Jerſey, to call Dr. W——n and Dr. S—r; Dr. W—— was alarmed at 3 o'clock in the morning, and ſet off inſtantly, to be in congreſs before the queſtion ſhould be put; and Dr. S—, who lived more remote, followed the ſame day, each of them with as much expedition as if they had been flying before the enemy. They arrived in ſeaſon, and by the paper ſent you herewith you will ſee how they voted.—*O tempora! O mores!*"

The following agreement was entered into by the ſecond battalion of Maryland militia, met at the Head of Elk, June 21, 1779, agreeable to law.

BEING deeply impreſſed with the growing evils that threaten not only this ſtate, but the United States in general, from the exorbitant prices of every neceſſary of life, the venal practices of monopoly, engroſſing and foreſtalling, which hath depreciated our currency, and counteracted every virtuous meaſure adopted by our moſt worthy citizens, in direct violation of the laws of the ſtate, wiſhing as much as poſſible to coincide with our brethren in the neighbouring ſtates to reſtore things again to rights, and to recover the credit of our currency.

And as we truſt the conſtitution and the laws of the ſtate are very ſufficient (if properly executed); or if not, we look on it as the only ſafe way of remedy, to remonſtrate and petition to our legiſlature in a conſtitutional way, for ſuch amendments as from time to time may be thought neceſſary.

We therefore bind ourſelves to each other, under the ſtricteſt ties of virtue and honour, that we will ſupport the civil authority in the execution of the laws (inviolable) to ſee them duly executed by the proper officers, as appointed by law; nor ſhall any man or ſet of men uſurp the power of legiſlation, or executing the laws, but ſuch as have authority by the conſtitution and from the legiſlature of the ſtate; and that we will uſe our utmoſt endeavours to prevent all monopolizing, engroſſing and foreſtalling of every ſort whatſoever, and will preſent all perſons guilty of any of them to the executive powers; and earneſtly recommend it to the magiſtrates, grand-jurors, and all other perſons in authority, to exert themſelves at this criſis, informing againſt and proſecuting all ſuch perſons as may be ſo loſt to virtue as to attempt to prey on their brethren the honeſt citizens; and we pledge ourſelves that we will, by the ſtricteſt ties aforeſaid, ſupport them in the ſame.

And we earneſtly entreat all traders, merchants, farmers, mechanics and others, to conform to the laws of the ſtate, and ſympathize with, and contribute to, the relief and neceſſities of their diſtreſſed brethren, and do caution all traders in goods of every ſort to conform to the regulations as directed by the acts of aſſembly, as we hold ourſelves bound, they muſt anſwer for the contrary to the penal laws of the ſtate.

The above being unanimouſly agreed to by the battalion, was ordered immediately to be made public, that all perſons concerned may govern themſelves accordingly.

Signed by order of the battalion,

H. HOLLINGSWORTH, col.

July 6. The electors of Waſhington county have inſtructed their delegates in general aſſembly not to agree to the paſſage of the bill, publiſhed by order of the laſt ſeſſion, for the conſideration of the people, and entitled, "A bill for the relief of certain nonjurors, on the terms therein mentioned," as they conſider it artfully calculated to relieve the notorious offender, as well as the ignorant and deluded; at the ſame time they expreſs their deſire, that thoſe may be relieved who have not had an opportunity of capacity to judge for themſelves, and have been miſled by diſaffected and deſigning men.

ANNAPOLIS, *July* 9.

On Monday laſt Mr. William Goldſmith and Mr. Samuel Harvey Howard were choſen of the common-council of this city, in the room of Mr. John Bullen and colonel James Brice, who are choſen aldermen in the room of Samuel Chaſe, Eſq; appointed recorder, and Thomas Jenings, Eſq; reſigned.

Captain John M'Kirdy, in the brig Tom Johnſon, arrived here this morning from Nantes, but laſt from Breſt, which port he left about the firſt of May, under convoy of five ſhips of the line, three frigates, and ſeventy tranſports, ſaid to have on board from ten to fifteen thouſand men, and bound for Martinico. He parted with them in the latitude of Madeira. Captain M'Kirdy, in company with the ſhip General Waſhington, arrived in Patowmack, fell in off our capes with a ſmall privateer of ſix guns and twenty-five men, which they took and brought in with them.

Extract of a letter from commodore Graſon, on board the Cheſter galley, to his excellency our governor.

"On Monday morning (the 28th of June) we weighed and ſtood out to ſea; at 8 o'clock ſaw a ſhip and a ſchooner ſtanding in for cape Henry, and immediately gave them chace, till within about two leagues of them; they then tacked and ſtood towards us, which gave me an opportunity of getting nearer the cape, and in ſhoal water; when we were about three leagues from cape Charles, and four miles from the ſhip, it fell almoſt calm. I then anchored, hoping ſhe would have done the ſame, but ſhe ſtill kept under way; finding the tide driving her farther from us, as ſoon as the people had dined, which was ½ paſt 2 o'clock in the afternoon, we weighed, and row'd down on her; at 4 we fired a ſhot, which ſhe returned with a broadſide; in about 10 minutes the action became general, and continued without intermiſſion till after ſun-ſet, when the wind ſprung freſh up ſoutherly; ſhe then made all the ſail in her power, and ſtood to ſea; we continued the chace till near 10 o'clock, at which time ſhe was quite out of gun-ſhot; we then hauled in for the land. She was quite a clean ſhip, juſt out of port, mounted with 18 4 and 6 pounders, and two ſtern chaces, on one deck, 4 carrriage guns and ſeveral ſwivels on the quarter deck and forecaſtle. I have the greateſt pleaſure in aſſuring your excellency, that the officers and men behaved with great conduct and bravery, and that we had not one man killed or wounded, except captain Daſhiell, who received a ſlight wound on his hip bone by a cannon ball."

LOST by the ſubſcriber,

THE PROCEEDINGS of the ancient TUESDAY CLUB, bound in parchment; ſeveral of the leaves are looſe. Whoever will deliver them to him, at his office, ſhall receive forty dollars for their trouble.

FREDERICK GREEN.

THE creditors of JAMES MAWE, late of this city, carpenter, deceaſed, are requeſted to bring in their accounts legally proved, in order to be ſettled; and thoſe indebted to the ſaid eſtate are hereby informed, that unleſs they make immediate payment, compulſory means will be made uſe of by the ſubſcriber to enforce a compliance.

JUDITH DOYLE, adminiſtratrix.

THE ſubſcriber takes the liberty to inform all perſons indebted to the eſtate of his mother, the late Mrs. Anne Catharine Green, that unleſs they ſpeedily ſettle and pay off their reſpective accounts, compulſory meaſures will be taken in every inſtance; and in a particular manner he requeſts thoſe ſheriffs under the late government, who are indebted, to pay the ſeveral ſums with which they ſtand chargeable, or their office bonds will be put in ſuit.—All perſons having claims on ſaid eſtate are deſired to make them known to

F. GREEN, adm.

Worceſter county, Maryland, May 18, 1779.

NOW in the gaol of this county, a NEGRO man called COLLINS, belonging to a gentleman (he ſays) living in New-Virginia, whoſe ſirname is Bell, and that he left him at Dover, in Kent county, in Delaware, ſome time in October, 1778; he is a ſmall black fellow, about 25 years of age. His maſter is deſired to come and pay charges and take him away.

w8 BENJAMIN PURNELL, ſheriff.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK and SAMUEL GREEN, at the OLD PRINTING-OFFICE in *Charles-Street*.